Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first and second paragraphs of the "Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)", beginning at line 13, page 3 and continuing through line 9, page 4, with the following amended paragraphs:

Referring to Fig. 2, in one embodiment of the invention, a packet-based communication network 201 provides telecommunication services operating in accordance with a communication standard such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) H.323 standard, which provides for packet-based multi-media communication including transmission of real-time audio, video, and data communications. The H.323 standard specifies the components, protocols, and procedures providing multi-media communication over a variety of packet-based network including Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks. The H.323 standard can be used for transmission of various combinations of audio, video and data, including audio only (for IP telephony applications, i.e., encoded voice-band traffic); audio and video; audio and data; or audio, video and data. Note that the use of the H.323 standard in the described embodiments is exemplary only. Other emerging or existing standards for packet-based voice, video or data communication, may also be used to implement the teachings described herein.

Referring still to Fig. 2, packet-based network 201 includes a plurality of ingress and egress points identified identifies as gateway 0 (GW0) 203, gateway 1 (GW1) 205 and gateway 2 (GW2) 207. One or more of the gateways, e.g., gateway 203, may be connected via the trunk line 209 to a central office 211 of a public switched telephone network (PSTN). Each gateway 203 provides a connection between the PSTN and packet based network 201. In order to connect

the different networks, the gateway has to translate protocols appropriately for call setup and release, and e.g., convert data to and from the various encoding and compression techniques utilized on the different networks (e.g., to and from encoded voice-band traffic of the packet-based network 201). Such gateways are known in the art and utilized for example, in H.323 based networks interfacing to a PSTN. The gateways may also connect one packet-based network to another packet-based network.